

WINE GRAPE INFORMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND THE REGION  
From Penn State Cooperative Extension

Table of Contents

1. Penn State Extension Enology Position
2. Bordeaux Wine Workshop at Black Ankle Vineyard
3. PA Vineyard Loop with Kevin Ker
4. American Society for Enology and Viticulture Notes
5. The Season So Far...
6. Upcoming Meetings
  - a. PQA Enology Seminar: Focus on Chardonnay – August 5
  - b. PAW Vineyard Walk Around: Growing Chardonnay – August 6
  - c. Marty Keen: developing a sprayer patternator for your vineyard – August 19
7. Vineyard Services from BDI
8. Harrisburg Area Community College Vit/Enol Program Update

*Editor's note: sorry to be out of touch and for the size of this newsletter. My e-mail delivery system went away temporarily but now has been restored as a Penn State listserv: WineGrape-L. If you got this message then you are on the WineGrape listserv.*

The College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State is requesting applications for an Enology Extension Associate. This will be a key position in the continued growth and success of the wine industry in Pennsylvania. If you are interested in the position or know someone who would be qualified please pass this information to him or her. Go to <http://psu.jobs/Search/Opportunities.html>. The job number is 3233. See attachment: PSU ExtEnologyPosition

Bordeaux: almost 100 people turned out to taste, talk and learn about Bordeaux red wine making at Black Ankle Vineyard in Maryland. The day began with visit to soil pits and a walk through the vineyard with hosts Ed Boyce and Sarah O'Herron. The heat index was over 100 so it was nice to find shelter in the cool winery, where the main speaker, Jean-Philippe Roby from ENITA, the viticulture and enology school in Bordeaux, talked about Bordeaux viticulture and how it may be adapted to Mid-Atlantic conditions. Also on the program were Lucie Morton, Jim Law and Ed, who all drew on their French experience to compare and contrast viticulture practices on both sides of the pond. Notes attached: Bordeaux Viticulture.

Pennsylvania Vineyard Loop: Kevin Ker is the outstanding viticulturist from the Niagara Peninsula where he does research and education work for Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute and his own KCMS consulting company. He joined me for a tour of vineyards and meetings with growers across the northern tier. Frost was the main topic on the agenda after two very bad spring frost years but we also talked a lot about cultural practices for new and traditional cold hardy hybrid varieties. It is exciting to have these new regions developing but there a plenty of challenges. Erie is an exciting wine region with great possibilities. Penn State extension educators Bill Pencek, Bill Waltman, Andy Muza and Lee Young helped to make this tour possible. I appreciate all the hospitality, good wines and vineyards we encountered during our trip. See attachment: PA Loop

ASEV National in Seattle: Along with our Eastern Chapter this is the best place to bone up on the very latest and greatest in viticulture and enology research and the Pacific Northwest offered a moderate and dry climate. I attended some excellent sessions. My notes are attached: ASEV

The Season So Far: boy, what a difference a year can make... veraison last year was two weeks behind and this year it's two weeks ahead but even this year has been a bumpy roller coaster starting with incredible amounts of snow across the region, the early heat spike that shot the vines out of the cannon, then very cool weather for a month followed by drought and heat and now SE PA is in the daily pm thundershower mode that will be downy started. In Lancaster we've taken over 5" of rain in the past 10 days. The corn growers have stopped complaining and are now talking about record yields, this is not music to the ears of a wine grower. Jean-Philippe talked specifically about the risks and challenges of making terroir wines and the need to be flexible and adaptable on a daily basis. Well, this is the reason why. Berry infections should taper off by now, although the length of susceptibility seems to grow longer each year. With the recent rains in some areas disease management is back on the front burner and rates, intervals and coverage should reflect the added risk. Final adjustments to crop load and canopies should get done now and for the next week. At the Bordeaux meeting Lucie told us that Luca at Barbourville hedges between 2 and 11 times a year. That says it about hedging, keep the vines under control and do so as needed, it's important to keep the canopy open. Even though the rains have returned it's still hot so leaf removal and hedging need to be done with care to avoid sunburn. Removing leaves in the interior of a dense canopy can be very helpful for disease control. Water, and even heat stress was a big worry for some about 3 weeks ago but it appears to have subsided. Dr. Tony Wolf at Virginia Tech put out an excellent bulletin on the topic which you can find as an attachment. As an industry we are deficient in our knowledge and skill of soil and plant water status monitoring and irrigation scheduling and if we continue to experience drought we will need to know how to respond with supplemental water. Once veraison comes, everything the vine and fruit go into autopilot with slight adjustments for the weather. It's hard to know what the post-veraison weather will bring, although we will remain ahead of schedule the quality of the harvest is still very much undetermined. Despite being early I would play red yields very close to the vest and try to get them into the barn before the usual harvest threats appear. Grape berry moth and Japanese beetles are threats and should be closely monitored. JB activity has been highly variable this season in vineyards I have seen. I don't know why. GBM was a big problem in some vineyards last year, especially causing rot as a result of its wounds. See my PA Loop notes for some thoughts about GBM from the experts at LERGP in Erie. According to Alice Wise and Wayne Wilcox at Cornell, the most effective botrytis application should be made at veraison. The recent rains should bring downy mildew into the disease picture. Good canopy management will help to control both diseases. See attachment: Botrytis-Downy from Alice's newsletter.

Upcoming meetings: The Pennsylvania Quality Alliance will host its annual wine making seminar on Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at Blair Vineyard in Kutztown. This year's theme is Chardonnay: Beyond the Norm. The featured speaker is Francois Servin from Domaine Servin in Chablis. Also on the program are Sigrid Gertsen-Briand, Catherine Peyrot des Gachons and Arthur Harder. A tasting of selected wines and lunch are included in the \$150 registration fee. Blair Vineyards is a new gravity flow winery on one of the finest vineyard sites in Pennsylvania. Their focus is to make great Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. It is well worth attending this meeting and seeing the vineyard and winery.

On Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, the Pennsylvania Association of Winegrowers will host its annual summer vineyard walkaround, also at Blair Vineyards with the focus on Chardonnay viticulture best practices. Monsieur Servin will be present to talk about methods in Chablis and best practitioners from around the

region will explain their success with Chardonnay. Alice Wise and Libby Tarleton will share their extensive research experience on Long Island with Chardonnay clones and growing methods. Experimental wines from the University of Maryland variety trial will be tasted. The registration fee that includes lunch is \$75. PAW supports the Penn State Wine Grape Program.

Marty Keen at Landey Vineyard in Lancaster is one of our most talented growers. He is arguably the most knowledgeable person about Grape Root Borer in vineyards in the country because he wanted to learn about a pest that was affecting his vineyard and productivity. He is a keen observer and engineer. Marty applied for a NE SARE grant to develop a low cost spray patternator to monitor and improve the spray pattern from airblast sprayers. On August 19<sup>th</sup> at his vineyard he will explain and demonstrate the construction and use of the patternator. Two pesticide core credits are available. More information is forthcoming.

Bill Reis of BDI Equipment in Macungie, PA sells equipment to the vineyard industry in the East. In addition to sales BDI is now offering custom services to vineyards that include mechanical leaf removal, hedging, suckering, prepruning, hilling up and taking down, vine row cultivating, spading for planting, subsoiling, shredding, sweeping berms, spreading lime and compost and more. Keith is in charge of this new program. Many local vineyards have difficulty keeping up with the vineyard tasks in a timely fashion. This service could help growers to keep on top of the necessary chores in the vineyard. Make sure that their services match your needs and quality standards. You can learn more about BDI at their web site: [www.bdimachinery.net](http://www.bdimachinery.net)

The enology half of the new Viticulture and Enology program at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) will be launched on schedule this fall. The first section has already been filled and a second section is being offered. This is a tremendously exciting opportunity for wine making in the state. Bob Green has enlisted help from Barry Gump, an experienced and respect enology educator to help with the instruction. The viticulture option has been placed on hold because a suitable instructor has not yet been found. Clearly this is a good decision. The success of this program depends on the quality of the teachers and it's smart to wait for the right person to be hired. I'll keep you posted on HACC's progress with their search. For more information, please visit <http://www.hacc.edu/AcademicDepartments/HospitalityandTourism/index.cfm>

Mark L. Chien  
State-wide Viticulture Extension Educator  
Penn State Cooperative Extension  
College of Agricultural Sciences  
1383 Arcadia Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
Tel: 717.394.6851  
Fax: 717.3943962  
e: [mlc12@psu.edu](mailto:mlc12@psu.edu)

Archived messages for the Wine Grape Newsletter list are available at <http://lists.psu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=WINEGRAPE-L>

To subscribe to the Wine Grape Newsletter list, send a blank message to [WINEGRAPE-L-SUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@LISTS.PSU.EDU](mailto:WINEGRAPE-L-SUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@LISTS.PSU.EDU)

To unsubscribe from Wine Grape Newsletter list, send a blank message to [WINEGRAPE-L-UNSUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@LISTS.PSU.EDU](mailto:WINEGRAPE-L-UNSUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@LISTS.PSU.EDU)